

PERRIN'S ROCKET PAVES THE WAY FOR CUP GLORY

A PEACH of a goal by Steve Perrin after 62 minutes set Wycombe Wanderers on the road to victory at Worthing on Saturday and a precious place in the first round proper of the F.A. Cup against Fourth Division club Newport County.

Perrin's goal — a superb drive from 20 yards — came at exactly the right time. Worthing were tiring badly when the big forward struck and after that, Wanderers' superior fitness brought them two further goals from Larry Pritchard and Mick Holifield.

As expected, Wycombe were forced to shuffle the team due to Derek Gamblin's injury, with Rob Williams moving to full back and Tony Brothers coming into midfield.

The Blues were faced by a side who were bang in form with numerous successes in cup competitions. In the first half Worthing looked a useful side, big and strong and much tighter defensively than Chatham in the previous round.

One was just getting the feeling they could spring a surprise when Wanderers at last hit the net, something that had looked unlikely after some poor finishing in the first 45 minutes. For once Tony Horseman was the culprit, spurning a couple of chances he normally snaps up with ease.

Although Worthing were undoubtedly lucky not to concede

a goal early on, they too had their moments and if John Oram had been more accurate with his shooting, Wanderers could well have been struggling. On several occasions they worried the visitors back four, where Dave

Despite all their pressure, it was obvious Wycombe were going to find it increasingly difficult to score. Worthing drafted men back at the first sign of danger and for set pieces, the goalmouth was so packed there

Then just before the interval, Keehan's back pass fell short and Searle nipped in to intercept. The England forward couldn't control the ball properly but poor clearance gave Horseman a chance with the

ball of the match. At the same time, it soon became apparent that Worthing were tiring. They were giving the Wycombe midfield trio far more time while mistakes became far more frequent.

sprinted in, robbed Long and fired in another great shot over Taylor.

Still the home side came back and after one mad scramble, John McCormick forced a good save from Maskell. McCormick, the man Wycombe had to watch for his speed, was disappointing. He rarely made use of the ball and his renowned pace never really materialised.

Worthing were almost dead on their feet when Holifield added the third goal, a gift, with five minutes remaining. Searle arrogantly slipped the ball through to Holifield but substitute Jim Vaughan seemed to have won possession with his tackle. However he lost the ball again as Holifield challenged and ran the ball into the net for number three.

The last few minutes belonged entirely to Wanderers. Evans replaced Horseman and Perrin almost made it 4-0 when his shot struck Taylor's legs. By that time, however, the coach loads of Wycombe supporters who made the journey, were well satisfied.

WORTHING: I. Taylor; H. Richardson, K. Keehan, J. Wood, B. Ayres, C. Kilby (sub. J. Vaughan 78 mins.), C. Gee, J. Oram, P. Long, M. Streeter, J. McCormick.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; R. Williams, P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Grant; A. Brothers, L. Pritchard, M. Holifield; A. Horseman (sub. D. Evans 86 mins.), K. Searle, S. Perrin.

Referee: C. C. Smith (Croydon).

Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Perrin (62), Pritchard (75), Holifield (85).

Attendance: 1,249.

By STUART EARP: Worthing 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

Bullock had an unsteady afternoon.

The Sussex side began well and pressed their more celebrated opponents for the first ten minutes. Then, in the 12th minute, Wanderers won their first corner and all but took the lead. Roger Grant's flag kick struck centre half Brian Amyes with goalkeeper Ian Taylor committed, and rolled towards the line. Kevin Keehan, however, was in the right place to boot the ball clear.

It was Worthing, however, who had the best opportunity in the first half when Oram latched onto Grant's poor pass and fired in a shot at John Maskell. As the keeper advanced, Oram's shot curled inches wide of the far post.

Steve Perrin replied almost immediately for Wycombe at the other end when he controlled Searle's flick-on and rifled in a drive on the volley but Taylor saved well. Then from the third corner, Taylor got in the way of Searle's shot and gathered at the second attempt.

looked to be no way through.

On the half hour, however, it seemed Tony Horseman had broken through the defensive cordon. A characteristic run by Keith Searle ended with a pinpoint cross to the far post where Horseman rose unchallenged. The ball looped towards the net only for John Wood to hack the ball off the line again.

Six minutes later, "Bodger" spurned another great chance to put his side in front. Larry Pritchard's header left Horseman free but instead of making sure, he rolled the ball towards the net and Keehan again had time to sprint across and clear again. Two minutes later Mick Holifield, who struggled to get into top gear, fired in a snap shot which Taylor did well to save.

Little was seen of Worthing's attack during this spell of Wycombe supremacy, but their defence was standing up well to the barrage. Centre half Amyes seemed to be everywhere, booting the ball high upfield to relieve the danger monotonously.

goalkeeper already committed. Tony tried to lob the ball over the defence but his effort was just too high and landed on top of the net.

So after 45 minutes, Worthing had survived the best Wycombe could offer and now had the advantage of the wind in the second half. Whether they could find some life upfront remained to be seen.

Keith Searle wasted no time in getting in the first blow of the half when he fired in a swerving drive from the edge of the box, which Taylor could only push away for a corner. From the flag kick Tony Brothers caught the ball perfectly on the half volley, but Taylor again excelled in saving at the second attempt.

Soon afterwards, Mick Holifield, whose lightning bursts from midfield have been few and far between recently, raced onto the scene with a shot which Taylor could only beat out as far as Searle but the centre forward was off target.

Wanderers seemed more urgent at this stage and were producing some of the best foot-

Only some fine goalkeeping from Taylor and more than their fair share of good fortune kept Worthing's hopes alive.

But their luck ran out in the 62nd minute. Steve Perrin, who had been threatening to score for a long time, gathered Pritchard's fine pass and made for goal. He was just outside the penalty area when he looked up and then powered a superb dipping shot over the helpless keeper and into the net.

Worthing stormed back at the other end soon afterwards and forced their first corner of the match in the 65th minute. From Chris Kilby's flag kick Oram went close with a header towards the far post, but Maskell dived to save.

As Worthing pressed forward for an equaliser they began to leave gaps in midfield, which Wycombe, especially Pritchard, were quick to exploit. It was the Blues skipper who made sure of the result in the 75th minute. As Paddy Long, Worthing's veteran England international dallied with the ball too long, Larry